

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application.

Claims 4, 8, and 15-28 are canceled. The cancellation of claims 15-28 is intended without prejudice, as the cancellation is solely for purposes of furthering prosecution of the remaining claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-14 are amended.

Claims 29 and 30 are newly added.

1. Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Wiedman. Wiedman discloses a land-based gateway for receiving and transmitting satellite signals, i.e., microwaves. The gateway purportedly performs some count of units of the satellite signals from/to the gateway. In addition to the count, the Wiedman gateway necessarily converts from (when satellite signal is received) or to (when satellite signal is sent) a satellite communication format for voice information that is microwaved by the gateway. The gateway connects to some form of land-based termination device for initiating or terminating voice calls. But, in every event, the gateway must be capable of microwave satellite communications of whatever is the voice information and in whatever applicable satellite format. Thus, the Wiedman gateway, itself, counts units that make up the satellite signals, performs conversion to/from satellite format, and communicates through microwave on satellite airspace.

Applicant's amended claims, on the other hand, more particularly and distinctly point out that Applicant's gateway does not itself make any count or determine any number that corresponds/represents quantity of digital data of a voice call. Rather, a number is determined for a collection of digital data that represents a voice call within a packetized voice network

made up of pluralities of interconnected nodes between which *the digital data* is communicated inside the packetized voice network. The packetized voice network is separate from external sources/recipients of the call. In other words, the external source/recipient of a voice call merely connects to the distinct/segregated packetized voice network through the gateway; and the gateway does not perform any number count or otherwise determine any quantity associated with digital or other data/information that is representative of or is the voice call. The network, itself (e.g., some component/feature of the network) -- **not the gateway** -- determines a number or quantity of digitized data being communicated within the network in respect of each voice call.

In fact, it would not be desirable that Applicant's claimed "number" for use in bill preparation for the voice call could be determinable by or otherwise made available at the gateway. For example, security concerns would be presented, since Applicant's gateway connects externally to the packetized voice network. An external device must be able to connect to Applicant's gateway (e.g., to make/receive voice calls) because Applicant's claimed "gateway" is for ingress/egress to the packetized network. Any feature of Applicant's claimed packetized voice network that is involved in determining the "number" should not be accessible in such manner from outside the network (for example, the external device could steal information and/or the "number" could be changed, etc. etc.). Additionally, the network and/or features of the network that enable to the "number" to be determined for Applicant's embodiments can secure the "number" because it is only knowable within the network (e.g., at the feature of the network for billing, etc.).

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the remaining amended claims and the newly added claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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